

IC 77-2131

7 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :  USN  
Deputy to the DCI for the  
Intelligence Community

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SUBJECT : Intelligence Support to Crisis  
Management

1. In accordance with Mr. Bush's instructions of 16 August 1976, Cord Meyer, a special assistant to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, has led a study group in the review of the Intelligence Community's procedures for national intelligence support in crisis situations. The group has concluded that the existing formal mechanisms (NIO coordination, the Strategic Warning Staff, Alert Memorandum, CRITIC reporting, the National Intelligence Situation Report, NOIWON conferencing and the Time-Critical Requirements procedures of the COMIREX and SIGINT Committees) are basically sound and should be continued. The group's findings recommend:

a. the institution of a Checklist of Intelligence Community Actions During Crisis;

b. the establishment of the position of DCI Crisis Advisor;

c. the designation of formal DCI liaison representatives to State and Defense crisis planning groups.

2. The findings were reviewed by the principal Community agencies (CIA, DIA and State), as well as by the IC Staff, and have received consensual support. Four options, as regards organizational placement of the Crisis Advisor, are offered: a member of the NIO Staff, a member of the IC Staff, an additional duty for the Director of the CIA Operations Center or the chairman of a proposed DCI Committee on Warning and Crisis Operations.

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3. I believe the [ ] program constitutes a worthwhile first step and should be endorsed. However, the study group has deliberately avoided initiatives in the critical, but more difficult, area of warning while recognizing the need for such improvements in follow-on efforts. The IC Staff believes that warning and crisis intelligence support are functionally inseparable and is developing a broader approach to coordinated Community operations in these areas.

4. Therefore, I propose, with your concurrence, to place the Crisis Advisor function in the IC Staff as an interim measure. This will facilitate its orderly implementation and further development with respect to warning support capabilities. It will also allow your views and the results of PRM/NSC-11 to be incorporated into the final implementation of the Crisis Advisory function.

5. Since interrelationships among the intelligence agencies are to be reviewed and possibly changed as a result of the PRM-11 endeavor, I recommend that formal implementation of the liaison assignments proposed by Mr. [ ] be postponed.

/s/

[ ]

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